

Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Jane Bonner Announce November Polar Plunge to Benefit the Special Olympics

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Councilwoman Bonner and Supervisor Lesko watch Special Olympics Athlete Maria Gruendel speak about the Polar Plunge



Supervisor Mark Lesko (left) and Councilwoman Jane Bonner (right) warm up after the 2010 plunge with athlete Matthew Schuster from Medford (center).

Farmingville, NY - At the August 16, 2011 Town Board meeting, Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Jane Bonner were joined by Maria Gruendel, a Special Olympics athlete, and Kristina Aquilone from the Special Olympics New York Long Island Region to announce the second annual Town of Brookhaven Polar Plunge. The Polar Plunge will take place on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai.

"Last year I braved the icy water of Cedar Beach in November with 350 fellow plungers. I encourage everyone to plunge this year with your neighbors, friends, and of course Special Olympics athletes to make their dreams possible," said Supervisor Mark Lesko.

"The Special Olympics is such a great organization and I hope we get an even bigger crowd than last year to come out and show their support," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner. "Take it from me, the water is chilly, but the reward of knowing that I was able to make a difference in someone's life by taking the plunge last year made it all worthwhile."

Residents can visit www.polarplungeny.org/brookhaven/ to get more information and start obtaining pledges. On the day of the event, registration will take place on November 19 between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and the Plunge will happen at noon.

Special Olympics Long Island has 4,000 athletes training and competing year-round in 22 Olympics-style sports. The athletes and their families or caregivers are never charged to participate. It costs \$400 to support training and competition for one athlete for one sports season. Special Olympics of Long Island encourages plungers to set their goal at \$400 to sponsor an athlete for an entire season.

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